

Amherst Conservation Commission Minutes Approved
Amherst Town Hall –March 13, 2011

Meeting called to order at 7:15 PM by John Harvey

Attendance: John Harvey, Jim Bowen, Bill Wichman, Rich Hart, Gary Cole, Anne Krantz, Alternate Bruce Beckley, Selectman Dwight Brew.

Minutes: Minutes from Feb and March accepted as submitted

Treasurer – Bill

Land estimate	\$284,721.26
Gift	\$9,233.13
Budget	\$2330.33

Treasurer's report approved.

Communications –

Nothing

Planning Board – Rich

At the previous Planning Board meeting the Board voted against the workforce housing project on Limbo Ln. In accordance with current law the developer is appealing the decision in court. The final disposition for the project will be determined by the Court

March Warrant Article Wrap-up

The Warrant article numbers 27, 36 and 37 were defeated.

Article 27: in 2001 warrant article was passed that allowed 50% of the current use funds to be used in a carry over fund. However, that article was at odds with the corresponding RSA. Consequently, current use funds must be expended in the year collected or returned to the Town Budget to defray taxes. Therefore, article 27 as presented this year could not have been enacted if passed for the same reason.

Articles 36 and 37 were procedural therefore the no vote means no change to current procedures.

Topics:

Dwight:

Warrant Articles

Bruce presented 3 draft articles for consideration

It was noted that the first article was most likely already in process

Jim made a motion to proceed with articles 2 and 3

Bill seconded

The ACC voted to go forward with articles 2 and 3

Jim: Jim is working a potential Warrant Article for 2012 that would put tax deeded land under ACC management. Potential legal issues were discussed, but the ACC agreed to continue formulating the article and investigate the legal issues as they arise.

Community Garden: The ACC discussed potential locations for a community garden. It was agreed that a community garden should be a private endeavor with no specific ACC involvement. Bill suggested that some parcels of tax deeded land might be suitable for community gardens. It would probably require BOS approval though.

Round Table

Bruce:

Bruce discussed the potential for linking Merrimack conservation land with Amherst conservation land near Pond Parish and Grater Woods. Trails already exist and it might be possible in future to link this “gem of an area” with the B&M trail.

Joppa Hill parking: Bruce presented estimates from Meridian Land Services to increase parking at the Joppa Hill Forest trail head. Estimate included survey work, trail head parking design, design review and anticipated schedule. This plan would provide off road parking for 4-5 cars. ACC took the estimate under advisement and will consider the cost for the work at future meetings.

Bill: Trailhead improvements continue: trailhead maps are being deployed with the goal that all trail have weather-proof maps installed on kiosks.

Gary: Noted that budgets and revenue are decreasing and recent warrant articles supporting funding for land acquisition have been defeated. He noted that the ACC has 2 payments left on the Joppa Hill purchase and recommended that the ACC set aside sufficient funds to meet these payments.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Gary Cole Member